

## Message Text

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ORIGIN DHA-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 IO-13 ISO-00 DODE-00 SCS-03  
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 NSCE-00 CIAE-00 PM-05 H-01  
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02  
SS-15 /078 R

DRAFTED BY D/HA/PW:FASIEVERTS  
APPROVED BY D/HA/PW:FASIEVERTS  
EA/VLC:MR. BROWN  
DOD/ISA:CAPT VOHDEN  
EA:RBOAKLEY  
SCA/SCS:MR. GISE

-----043621 152111Z /75

O 152041Z AUG 77  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION GENEVA IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL HONG KONG IMMEDIATE  
CINCPAC IMMEDIATE  
JCRC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 193004

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MILI, VN, LA, CB

SUBJECT: STATUS REVIEWS FOR MIA'S

1. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT IS ANNOUNCING AUGUST 16 THAT STATUS REVIEWS ARE BEING RESUMED BY THE MILITARY SERVICES FOR US MILITARY PERSONNEL STILL LISTED AS PRISONERS OF WAR OR MISSING IN ACTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA. SUCH REVIEWS ARE REQUIRED BY US LAW AND WILL BE CONDUCTED CASE BY CASE BY  
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SPECIALLY CONSTITUTUED PANELS AT THE DIRECTION OF THE MILITARY SERVICE SECRETARIES.

2. SINCE 1973 SUCH REVIEWS HAVE TAKEN PLACE FOR CLOSE TO 50 PERCENT OF THE PERSONNEL LISTED AS MIA AT THE TIME OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT, LEADING TO STATUS CHANGES FROM MISSING TO PRESUMED DEAD. REVIEWS SINCE AUGUST 1973 WERE

INITIATED UPON RECEIPT OF REMAINS OR AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRIMARY NEXT OF KIN (WIFE OR PARENTS). UNDER THE NEW POLICY, REVIEWS WILL BE INITIATED BY THE MILITARY SERVICES, STARTING WITH THOSE MISSING THE LONGEST. SINCE THE REVIEWS ARE UNDERTAKEN ON AN INDIVIDUAL CASE BY CASE BASIS, IT MAY TAKE AS LONG AS A YEAR TO COMPLETE THEM.

3. SINCE THE START OF OUR ACCOUNTING EFFORTS WE HAVE MADE CLEAR TO THE INDOCHINA AUTHORITIES THAT OUR CONCERN EXTENDS EQUALLY TO THOSE PRESUMED DEAD AS WELL AS TO THOSE LISTED AS MISSING. ABOUT HALF OF THOSE FROM WHOM INFORMATION AND REMAINS HAVE BEEN RECOVERED FROM INDOCHINA WERE CLASSIFIED AS KIA AT THE TIME. LISTS GIVEN TO THE VIETNAM, LAO, AND CAMBODIAN COMMUNIST AUTHORITIES HAVE INCLUDED ALL OUR UNACCOUNTED FOR PERSONNEL, THOSE DECLARED DEAD AS WELL AS THE MISSING. INDIVIDUAL CASE RECORDS GIVEN TO THE VIETNAMESE AND LAO HAVE ALSO COVERED SOME PERSONNEL LISTED AS MISSING AND SOME PRESUMED DEAD, WITH NO DISTINCTION MADE BETWEEN THESE CATEGORIES. THE OVERALL TOTAL OF UNACCOUNTED FOR U.S. MILITARY PERSONNEL IN INDOCHINA IS 2500.

4. THERE ARE ALSO SOME 40 US CIVILIANS LISTED AS MISSING OR UNACCOUNTED FOR IN INDOCHINA. THE STATE DEPARTMENT EXPECTS TO UNDERTAKE REVIEW PROCEDURES, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE NEXT OF KIN, TO RESOLVE THE STATUS  
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OF THESE PERSONS AS WELL.

5. FOR PARIS: EMBOFF SHOULD INFORM SRV EMBASSY OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF STATUS REVIEWS, AND REMIND SRV AUTHORITIES THAT STATUS CHANGES TO PRESUMED DEAD WILL NOT AFFECT OUR DETERMINATION TO OBTAIN ADDITIONAL INFORMATION AND REMAINS, OR THE SRV'S RESPONSIBILITY TO PROVIDE SUCH AN ACCOUNTING. YOU MAY DRAW ON THE FOREGOING AS APPROPRIATE TO EXPLAIN THAT STATUS REVIEWS ARE REQUIRED BY US LAW AND HAVE THE RESULT FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES OF CLARIFYING THE LEGAL STATUS OF THE MISSING MEN.

6. FOR VIENTIANE: YOU SHOULD MAKE SIMILAR DEMARCHE TO LPDR.

7. FOR GENEVA: PLEASE CONVEY THIS INFORMATION ALSO TO ICRC AND UNHCR. VANCE

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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Drafter:** FASIEVERTS  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MILI, VN, LA, CB, US  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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